

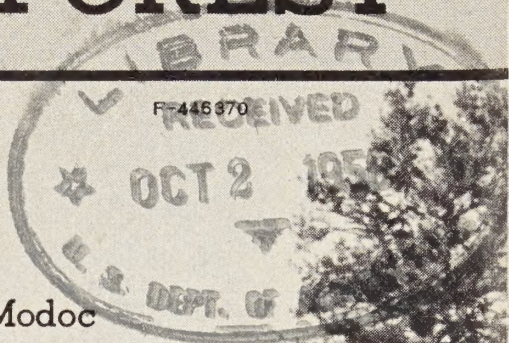
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1949



MODOC NATIONAL FOREST



The main division of the Modoc National Forest is characterized by almost level stretches of forest land enclosing meadows, by open range land, and low hills.



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE • CALIFORNIA REGION
ISSUED 1949

MODOC NATIONAL FOREST is located in the northeastern corner of California. In this corner of the State is a short mountain range, a spur of the Cascade System to the north, called the Warner Mountains in memory of Capt. W. H. Warner of the United States Army Engineers, who was killed by Indians in 1849 while making an examination of the routes from Humboldt Valley to the Sacramento River. Westward lies a plateau region of forests, meadows, and open range lands. A few rounded hills, not large enough to be called mountains, rise from this comparatively level country, and on the north are shallow lakes. Within this area is the Modoc National Forest, covering 1,608,805 acres.

The forest supervisor in charge of the Modoc National Forest has his headquarters at Alturas. For administrative purposes the forest is divided into six ranger districts with a ranger in charge of each. Ranger headquarters are located at Adin, Alturas, Cedarville, Canby, and Tule Lake.

The object of national-forest administration is the protection, improvement, and proper use of the natural resources. It is the desire of the Forest Service that the wood, forage, water, wildlife, and recreation possibilities shall contribute to the economic and social welfare of permanent communities.

Twenty-five percent of all national-forest receipts from sale of timber, grazing, and other forms of forest use is returned by the Forest Service to the counties in which the forest is located to be used for schools and roads. An additional 10 percent of the gross receipts is used in the maintenance of roads and trails within the national forest. These forest roads, while primarily for forest protection and maintenance, are also for public use.

Alturas, an up-to-date town of 3,000, the county seat of Modoc County and headquarters of the Modoc National Forest, is at the crossing of several important highways. U S 395, called the "Three Flags Route," comes down from Lakeview, Oreg., on the north and goes through

Reno, Nev. The main artery of travel is the Redding-Alturas Highway, U S 299, which also goes west from Redding to Arcata on the coast through the Trinity National Forest. The Redding-Alturas Highway is open the year round. Within the Modoc Forest are more than 2,000 miles of all classes of roads, Federal, State, and county.

MODOC HISTORY

In pioneer times, the present Modoc Forest was crossed by covered-wagon trails. Today its high standard highways connect three nations. There is much in this region to interest students of early American history.

Before the days of the white man, the Indians called the country "The Smiles of God." But after Lindsey Applegate laid out his route to the Willamette Valley in Oregon in 1846 and Peter Lassen blazed his route south to the Sacramento Valley, it became the "Dark and Bloody Ground of the Pacific." The Indians, and particularly the warlike Modocs, resented the coming of emigrants and settlers, and at intervals made bitter and merciless war upon them. Such names as Bloody Point, Crooks Canyon, Fort Bidwell, and Fandango Valley recall battles, wagon-trail massacres, and fights in which pioneers like General Crook, Kit Carson, and John Fremont figured.

The Modoc troublemakers were put on a reservation in 1864, but were never satisfied, and longing for their old hunting grounds, escaped and clashed with the United States Cavalry. The murderous depredations of these renegades led to the Modoc War, the only important Indian war of the west coast. In the fall of 1872 a small band of Modocs under "Captain Jack" took their stand in the lava beds at the south end of Tule Lake, now known as Capt. Jack's Stronghold. It was a natural fortress of caves, tunnels, and passages formed by the cooling of lava flows. The Army moved in with cavalry, infantry, and artillery, built a wagon road from Reno to bring in supplies, and began a siege that lasted nearly 6 months.

These Modocs were not the storied red men of paint, buckskin, and war bonnets. Dressed in white man's clothing, and many of them speaking the white man's tongue, they took care of their women and children, lived off the country, and held at bay a foe many times their number. All the fighting was in the Indians' favor with practically no loss until the end came. Captain Jack murdered Gen. E. R. S. Canby while in parley under a flag of truce on April 11, 1873. Soon after that the band was driven out of their fortress, and after several fights in which the soldiers lost heavily, the last engagement was fought at Dry Lake on May 10. Captain Jack and some of his leaders were hanged later and the Modoc War was ended.

Today the fortress and some of the historic spots of this campaign are preserved by the Lava Beds National Monument.

FORAGE

Unlike other parts of California the search for gold was not the objective of the first settlers here. The pioneers who developed this region were emigrants bound for the agricultural lands of the West. They were farmers who traveled the Oregon Trail looking for new lands; they became the ranchers whose livestock grazed the meadows and pastures.

Today, after 75 years, livestock production is the most important industry in the Modoc National Forest, affecting the lives and prosperity of the majority of the local population. In fact the Modoc is the most important national forest in the California region from a grazing standpoint, and Modoc County is one of the ten leading beef-producing counties in the State. Many of the early studies of the effects of Forest Service grazing policies were made here; the first range improvements such as drift fences, dipping vats, and water developments were undertaken on the Modoc.

The Forest Service objective is to develop range resources for maximum permanent production in the interest of a stable, prosperous livestock industry.

TIMBER

For many years there was little demand for any of the 3 billion board feet of Government timber which was the primary reason for the creation of this national forest. During the past 15 years, however, there has been an increasing amount of stumpage sold to operators who cut the timber under supervision of trained Forest Service officers. The timber resource is now an important factor in the development of this region.

It is the policy of the Forest Service to treat the forest as a resource which will produce a merchantable crop of trees each year. This is what is known as "sustained yield." Sustained-yield management, when applied to a tract of timber supplying a sawmill with logs, means a permanent community and a stable industry. The Modoc Forest has two sustained-yield operations, one in Big Valley cutting 8 million board feet annually, and one in Alturas cutting 15 million board feet annually. In addition to these two units, timber in isolated tracts is sold to other mills.

In the Lava Beds district is probably the largest unbroken body of western juniper in the United States. The plateau of 300,000 acres on which this tree grows is called the Devil's Garden.

WILDLIFE

The Modoc National Forest is the home of a wide variety of native species of wildlife. Most of the game animals inhabiting the Great Basin are represented in the forest. Some of these are so rare that they are given complete protection. Others, such as pronghorn antelope and Rocky Mountain mule deer, are becoming abundant in many localities. During periods of severe weather in the winter, concentration of deer herds on a limited range presents a spectacular sight for travelers on the Canby-Klamath Falls Highway. On a well-planned trip through the forest it is possible in one day to see deer, antelope, beaver dams in use, sagehen, grouse, and numerous kinds of waterfowl.



F-446398

The Modoc Forest provides forage each season for many thousand cattle and sheep.



F-452096

Sugar Hill fire, 1940. Forest fires have taken a heavy toll of public and private timberlands on the Modoc Forest. Burned forests pay no dividends.

Four State game refuges are located within the Modoc—1B, in the Badger Spring (Well) country; 1C, in the Pine Creek region of the Southern Warner Mountains; 1N, in the Lava Beds; and 1S, south of Big Valley in the Hayden Hill country. Clear Lake Reservoir in the northwestern part of the forest is a Federal bird refuge.

No hunting is permitted in either State or Federal refuges, and the possession of firearms within their boundaries is prohibited.

RECREATION

The Forest Service welcomes visitors to the national forests where recreational resources are administered with a minimum of restrictions consistent with the protection and use of the national forests and the welfare of the people dependent on them. Commercialized uses obtrude as little as possible upon the areas dedicated primarily to recreation in the national forest. Recreational development is planned to provide for the health and safety of recreationists and for simple facilities for comfort and convenience. All physical improvements are made to harmonize with the forest environment insofar as possible.

Blue Lake, Clear Lake, and Lily Lake, ideally located in the Warner Mountains, are three of the most popular recreation areas on the Forest. Free public camp grounds on the Modoc Forest are furnished with stoves, tables, benches, and sanitation facilities.

Entrance, travel, and enjoyment of the beauties of the forest are free to all, with the single stipulation that good woods practice must be observed to protect the forest against fire and insanitary nuisance. Be thoughtful in the forest—treat it as though it were all your own, which it is. It will repay you in health, inspiration, and pleasure. At the same time, remember it is supplying definite economic and social services which depend upon a living forest.

For full description of the following camps and further information apply to Forest Supervisor, Modoc National Forest, Alturas, Calif.

Public Camp Grounds

Lower Rush Creek.—North from Adin 9 miles, then east 1 mile to camp located on the creek. Space for camp trailers. Elevation 4,600 feet.

Upper Rush Creek.—North of Adin on Rush Creek, 3 miles beyond the lower camp. Elevation 5,100 feet.

Ash Creek.—Eight miles southeast of Adin, 1 mile north of the Adin-Madeline Road, reached by fair road. Elevation 4,900 feet.

Willow Creek.—Sixteen miles south of Adin on the Susanville Road. Space for camp trailers. Elevation 4,600 feet.

South Fork.—Located east of Likely, 8 miles on the Jess Valley Road and along South Fork Pit River. A good road leads to the site for camp trailers. Elevation 5,100 feet.

Cedar Pass.—Near the summit of Cedar Pass on the Alturas-Cedarville Road. No space for camp trailers. Elevation 5,750 feet.

Canby Bridge.—Adjacent to the Redding-Alturas Highway and 5 miles south of Canby. Space for camp trailers. Elevation 4,300 feet.

Cottonwood Flat.—Located northeast of Happy Camp Lookout and 8 miles west of Canby Bridge Camp on the Alturas-Redding Highway. No trailer space. Elevation 4,300 feet.

Howard's Gulch.—Located on Canby-Klamath forest highway, 6 miles west of Canby. Trailer space. Elevation 4,300 feet.

Plum Valley.—East of Davis Creek 3 miles, and 21 miles north of Alturas. Reached by a poor road. Elevation 5,500 feet.

Patterson.—Five miles south from Eagleville and 11 miles south and west over a steep and rough road, not advisable for trailers. Elevation 7,150 feet.

Mill Creek Falls.—Located on Mill Creek, 2 miles north of Jess Valley, which is 10 miles east of Likely. Not advisable for camp trailers. Elevation 5,700 feet.

Lava Camp.—Located east of Round Mountain Lookout, 18 miles northwest of the town of Lookout via the Medicine Lake Road. No space for trailers. Elevation 4,600 feet.

Lily Lake.—In California, but reached by turning east from New Pine Creek, Oreg., for 10 miles over a good road, although steep. Not advisable for camp trailers. Elevation 7,000 feet.

Hunting and Fishing

All the Modoc National Forest, with the exception of the area in four State game refuges and the Federal bird refuge, is open to hunting. Sportsmen from all parts of California come to the forest during the deer hunting season. Many succeed in bagging large Rocky Mountain mule deer. Many lakes, reservoirs, and larger streams afford good waterfowl shooting in the late fall. Upland game-bird shooting is also popular. Dove and valley quail are numerous in some localities. Pheasants have become well established, but they are confined to agricultural districts adjacent to the forest.

Guns may be brought into the forest, but no shooting is permitted in the vicinity of camps or places of habitation. Dogs are allowed under certain restrictions. In national-forest camp grounds owners must see that their dogs do not interfere with other users. During the open season the State allows one dog per hunter to take deer.

Although a large part of the Modoc Forest is semiarid, there are natural lakes and streams and numerous man-made reservoirs that provide good trout and bass fishing.

Winter Sports

The Warner Mountains have much to offer for winter sports. Several peaks rise to nearly 10,000 feet. There are easy slopes for the beginners, moderate slopes for good skiers, and rugged areas that will tax the skill of the best performers. The Warner Mountains also present unusual opportunity for cross-country skiing through an area of exceptional beauty.

The Modoc Ski Club maintains a 1,000-foot rope ski lift on its Cedar Pass Ski Area (7,000 feet elevation). An all-year highway crosses

the Warner Mountains at this point. Snow conditions are best during January, February, and March. Spring skiing is good at the higher elevations during April.

South Warner Wild Area

In the southern division of the Warner Mountains, 75,000 acres have been set aside as the South Warner Wild Area. This high mountain region will be maintained as nearly as possible in its natural state, traversable only on foot or with saddle and pack horses. In this area are three mountain peaks—Squaw Peak, 8,650 feet; Warren Peak, 9,722 feet; and Eagle Peak, 9,906 feet—steep, rugged canyons, glacial lakes, and charming mountain meadows. It is a wild and picturesque region, and adding not a little to its charm is Surprise Valley, with its cultivated farms lying just below and visible from all the higher points of this wilderness. Trails lead to the summits of the three peaks. The boundaries of the area are accessible by auto by way of Alturas and Cedarville from the north, and by way of Madeline and Eagleville from the south.

FIRE PREVENTION

The preservation of the forest, upon which depends such resources as our future timber supply, stream flow (for power, irrigation, and municipal purposes), game, and recreation, can be assured only by reducing to a minimum the damage and destruction from forest fires.

Human carelessness causes most of the fires which occur each year in California. Many inexperienced mountain travelers are ignorant of the inflammable nature of the forest cover during the summer months, how easily forest fires can be started, how destructive they can be, and how hard they are to control.

All visitors are requested to comply strictly with the forest rules for fire prevention, and to cooperate willingly with the Forest Service in preventing and controlling forest fires. Productive forests contribute to the stability of California's communities and industries.



Lily Lake is one of many recreation areas developed and maintained for free public use on the Modoc Forest.



F-38492A

Timber in public ownership on the Modoc is being managed so that it is supporting permanent communities.

RULES FOR FOREST VISITORS

1. A campfire permit must be secured before building any fire, including fires in stoves burning wood, kerosene, or gasoline, on national-forest land, except in certain developed camp grounds which are so posted. Permit is also required for a stove in an auto trailer. The nearest forest officer will issue a permit to you without charge.

2. While it is not required that a camping party have a shovel and ax while on the national forest, these tools have many uses and should be carried.

3. During the fire season smoking is prohibited in the national forest, except in camps, places of habitation, and specially posted smoking areas. Smokers are cautioned to be careful to extinguish their lighted matches, cigars, cigarettes, and pipe heels, and to avoid throw-

ing them out of a moving vehicle. Watch for "No Smoking" and "Smoke Here" signs.

4. In periods of high fire hazard, camping and camp or picnic fires may be restricted to posted camp grounds, and part or all of the national forest may be closed to public use and travel.

5. Build small fires. Clean an area, down to mineral soil, not less than 10 feet in diameter, before starting a fire.

6. Never leave a fire unattended without totally extinguishing it with plenty of water.

7. Keep your camp clean. Where garbage pits and incinerators are not provided, burn or bury all garbage and refuse.

8. Do not pollute the streams, springs, or lakes by insanitary acts.

9. Observe the State fish and game laws.

10. Drive carefully on mountain roads.

Your cooperation in observing these rules is requested

WHAT TO DO WHEN LOST

If you start out alone on a trip in the mountains always leave word where you are going and what route you are going to take.

The following helpful rules are worth remembering:

1. Stop, sit down, and try to figure out where you are. Use your head, not your legs.

2. If caught by night, fog, or storm, stop at once and make camp in a sheltered spot. Build a fire in a safe place. Gather plenty of dry fuel.

3. Don't wander about. Travel only downhill. Follow watercourses or ridges.

4. In case of injury, choose a cleared spot on a promontory and make a signal smoke if possible. The Forest Service

fire lookouts or the observers in airplanes may see your smoke.

5. Don't yell, don't run, don't worry, and DON'T QUIT.

A word from the forest rangers to the new camper, hiker, or vacationist:

It is better to carry a clear head on your shoulders than a big pack on your back. Yet in going alone into the mountains it is well to be prepared for any emergency. A fishline and a few hooks, matches in a waterproof box, a compass, a little concentrated food, and a strong knife should always be carried. A gun may help as a signal, seldom for obtaining food. Above all, keep cool, and the chances are you will come out of the woods on your own feet.



F-452101

The Modoc Forest is a habitat for Rocky Mountain mule deer, and hunting is one of the most popular sports.



F-411588

Cedar Pass, readily accessible by car, is a popular winter-sports playground.

*Trail riders in the south
Warner Mountains.*



F-446357



F-187989

*Main entrance to Caldwell's ice cave at Lava Bed National Monument, near
Modoc National Forest.*



F-446562

Mill Creek Meadows, one of the choice recreation areas on the Modoc.



F-188002

Indians drew petroglyphs on these "picture rocks" at Lava Bed National Monument, near Modoc National Forest.



F-452100

Watering places for stock and game throughout the Modoc Forest are developed by the Forest Service.

F-452097

Sugar Hill Fire Lookout. Modoc Forest lookouts are manned during the summer months for fire detection purposes.



F-446389

Lumbering is an important industry in the Modoc National Forest.



F-452098

Blue Lake in the south Warner Mountains is a popular recreation area.



F-271705

Livestock production and ranching affect the lives of 75 percent of the people of this region.

IF YOU FIND A FOREST FIRE, put it out if you can. If you cannot put it out, report it to the forest supervisor, the ranger, the sheriff, or the nearest telephone operator. Locations of headquarters of the supervisor and the rangers are indicated on the map.

SIX RULES FOR PREVENTING FIRE IN THE FORESTS

1. **MATCHES**—Be sure your match is out. Break it in two before you throw it away.
2. **TOBACCO**—Be sure that pipe ashes and cigar or cigarette stubs are dead before throwing them away. Never throw them into brush, leaves, or needles. Don't smoke while traveling through the woods.
3. **MAKING CAMP**—Before building a fire, scrape away all inflammable material from a spot 10 feet in diameter. Dig a hole in the center and in it build your campfire. Keep your fire small. Never build it against trees or logs, or near brush. Never leave open campfires unattended.
4. **BREAKING CAMP**—Never break camp until your fire is **OUT—DEAD OUT**.
5. **CAMPFIRES**—Never build campfires in windy weather or where there is the slightest danger of their escaping from control. Don't make them larger than you need.
6. **HOW TO PUT OUT A CAMPFIRE**—Stir the coals while soaking them with water. Turn small sticks and drench both sides. Wet ground around the fire. Be sure the last spark is dead.

THIS IS YOUR FOREST. Help protect it by being careful. Fires destroy timber, forage, game, and fish.

MODOC NATIONAL FOREST
CALIFORNIA
MT. DIABLO MERIDIAN
1948

- LEGEND
- National Forest Boundary
 - County Boundary
 - Major Highway
 - Good Motor Road
 - Poor Motor Road
 - Trail
 - Supervisors Headquarters
 - District Ranger Station
 - Fire Station Not Permanently Occupied
 - Perennial Lookout Station
 - Perennial Lookout B Triangulation Station
 - House, Cabin or other Building
 - Improved Forest Camp

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